

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1156

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Joy McCaleb upon her selection as Teacher of the Year at Upperman High School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Joy McCaleb is one such extraordinary educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity ; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McCaleb was recently selected Teacher of the Year by Upperman High School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Joy McCaleb has served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher at Upperman High School for seventeen exemplary years; she is dedicated to her students and spends her personal time listening to, mentoring, and advising them; and

WHEREAS, a student herself with a thirst for knowledge, Ms. McCaleb obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education in English and communications and a Master of Arts degree in secondary education in curriculum and instruction before earning a Specialist in Education degree in administration and supervision, all from Tennessee Technological University; she also completed coursework to become certified to teach speech and drama; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her sterling service as a teacher at Upperman High School, Joy McCaleb has also shared her knowledge at Tennessee Technological University as an adjunct faculty member in theater and has eloquently penned articles for the *Herald-Citizen* daily newspaper as a freelance feature writer; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McCaleb gives back to her profession through her membership in various professional organizations, including the National Council of Teachers of English; the Middle Tennessee Scholastic Press Association, of which she is a board member; the Tennessee High School Press Association, of which she is a committee member; the Journalism Education Association, which she serves as a committee member for teacher and student programs; the Putnam County Education Association; Tennessee Education Association; National Education Association; and Tennessean for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, distinguishing herself as an educational leader, Joy McCaleb has participated in numerous educational leadership activities, including presenting at several conferences and seminars on various topics; writing a vignette for the new standards for English/language published by the International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers for English; authoring the book, *Our Hero Freebird: An Organ Donor's Story*; coordinating the first newspaper seminar for high school students in Tennessee; attending many professional seminars, conferences, and workshops; writing several grants; developing the Game Show Network National Vocabulary competition at Upperman High School; participating in the Holocaust concentration and death camp tour in Germany, Poland, and Czech Republic; serving as a local committee member and presenter for the Journalism Education Association national news conference for high school students; and serving with distinction as the Fine Arts Department Chair of Upperman High School since 2004; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McCaleb's excellence as an educator has been duly noted many times by her receipt of a plethora of honors and awards, including the Herald of Excellence Award, Upperman Middle School Teacher of the Year, Putnam County Middle School Teacher of the Year, Tennessee Journalism Teacher of the Year, Heartland National Outstanding Writing Teacher, Tennessee Holocaust Teacher of the Year, "Make A Difference" Award, and Tennessee Journalism Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Joy McCaleb is an extremely patient and giving person who motivates her students to reach their full potential, perhaps the greatest of all teaching gifts; and

WHEREAS, despite her busy work schedule, Ms. McCaleb still finds time to lend her talents to community theater, performing in numerous local dinner theater murder mysteries,

directing and producing more than twelve theater performances, directing a traveling troupe that presented a play to honor veterans of war, and dazzling audiences as a cast member in the community production of *The Laramie Project*; and

WHEREAS, a selfless person whose benevolent nature knows no bounds, Joy McCaleb has generously volunteered and raised funds for countless worthy causes and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McCaleb epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and friend, Ms. Joy McCaleb is the perfect example of a person totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby applaud and congratulate Ms. Joy McCaleb upon her selection as Upperman High School's Teacher of the Year, salute her expertise and dedication as an educator, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.